

THE
C A S E ²
Fairly Stated between the
TURKY Company
AND THE
Italian Merchants.

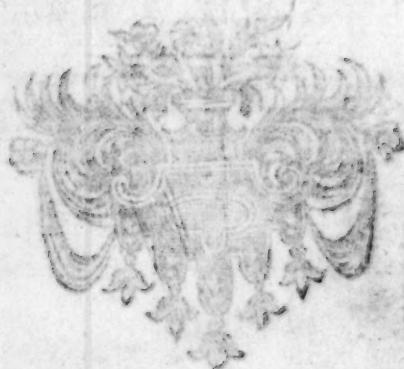
By a MERCHANT.



L O N D O N.

Printed for *J. Roberts* in *Warwick-Lane.* 1720.

THE
CASE
History Stage pieces
TURK COMPAGNIA
AND THE
TURKISH MERCHANTS



LODOWIC
LONDON
Printed for R. Knapton and W. Marshall, 1750.



THE
C A S E
 Fairly Stated between the
T U R K Y Company
 AND THE
Italian Merchants.



HE *Turky Company* wou'd
 be but ill charg'd with so
 much Art in the Conduct
 of their Trade, if they
 were capable of using no
 Art in the Defence of it.

No Man can charge them with want
 of Cunning in what they now push at,

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and wou'd they use as much Honesty in their Argument as they shew Art in their Design, some plain Questions and Answers wou'd bring us all to the End of the Dispute; and the House of Commons wou'd have very little Trouble about it.

The Papers they have hitherto publish'd, have generally aim'd at two Things, and both of them seem to be unfair, and something sophistical: I am loth to call it Shuffling, with respect to the Persons of the Gentlemen concern'd; but Necessity obliges me to say, That what they offer, evidently looks one Way but means another; the specious Pretences they make for the publick Good of Trade, Encouragement of Manufactures, and the like, are only Covers to conceal the grand End of separate Interest; which, tis manifest, is the Thing they aim

They pretend in their Papers, to advocate for the Good of their Country, against the Encouragement given by the *Italian Merchant* to the *French*, to sell their Cloth.

Cloth in *Turky*, by taking off the Raw Silk, which is the Return, whereas really, they are in their Capacity as a Company, the Reason of all the Encouragement the *French* meet with in the *Turky* Trade; and if it were not for the ill Conduct of the *Turky* Company, the *French* wou'd have no Silk to sell, nor vend any Cloth in *Turky* worth naming.

2. They pretend, that the supporting the *Turky* Company is the Interest of the Trade; whereas their being a Company, in the Sense of their present Management, is the great Obstruction of the Trade; and will, if not restrain'd, be the Ruin of it.

In their Papers, therefore, it is evident, they aim (1.) at suppressing the *Italian* Merchant's Trade to *Turky*; and (2.) at engrossing the Trade of selling Cloth in *Turky*, and of Silk in *England*, in order to imposing their own Price upon the Buyers of Cloth Abroad, and the Manufacturers of Silk at Home. Both which would, if obtain'd,

obtain'd, effectually declare them a Monopoly, in the grossest Sense of that Word.

Their Oppressions Abroad, their unfair Dealings with the Merchants, who from *Leghorn* interfere, as they call it, with their Trade; their By-Laws, their arbitrary Proceedings upon them, and all the rest of their ill Conduct, they give up, and seem to plead Guilty to them all, so they can but get this Bill.

With so much Eagerness they push for this Bill, that they not only manag'd their Introduction into it with the utmost Art, and push'd it on with unweary'd Application, but they are even willing to consent to any future Laws, to limit, nay, even to punish their Exorbitance, so they may but be indulg'd with the Advantages they drive at in this Bill.

In a Word, they are in such a Passion for this darling Bill, that they are willing to give up their Reputation as a Company, submit to all the Parliament may think fit to do with them, or

or all the Punishment that may be inflicted upon them, provided they may but save THIS BILL.

It is their own Expression in one of their Cases. *Possibly the Turkey Company may have committed Faults, and made unfitting By-Laws: If they have done both, yet THIS BILL may be necessary.* And in another Place, *All that can be objected against the Turkey Company, may be remedy'd in ANOTHER BILL, and we may take ANOTHER TIME for the remedying of it. If a Company oppresses, we may curb and restrain it by FUTURE LAWS.* And the like.

I wou'd not treat the Company with Indecency, but this seems to me to be little more than that of a Man, detected of a grievous Trespass, craving Leave for an immediate Power to oppress and injure his Neighbour, and putting off the Examination and Punishment of his own Crime to another Season; as if the remedying the Grievance on one side, had not the same Justice in it, and did not call for the same Concern of the Publick to rectify,

fy, as the other. I might have illustrated this by a more severe Simily, if I were willing to carry Things to the Height.

But let us take these Gentlemen in their own Way, and use their own Words, as above. *Possibly the Company have committed Faults, and made unfitting By-Laws :* It is most certain they have, and I infer, what I believe every Member in the House of Commons will grant, (*viz.*) Therefore it is not reasonable, those that have already abus'd their Power, shou'd be now enabled to abuse it farther.

What they now ask, is neither more or less, than to have a Power granted them to oppress and injure the Traders to *Turky* ; who, they grant already, they have injur'd and oppress'd. As to the Bill they demand, the Nature of it shall presently appear, when the Fraud of the Design is more effectually laid open. Something extraordinary must sure be the Case, that these Men are so very earnest to have the Examination of the Conduct of the *Turky Company* put

put off; it is a shrewd Suspicion of Guilt, when Men are so extraordinary shy of coming to an Examination; see how it runs thro' all their Arguings: *If the Bill passes, say they again, the Conduct of the Turkey Company, all their By-Laws, and even their Charter, if lyable to any just Exceptions, may be examin'd afterwards by Parliament.* Very good, and why not now? Why must not the Parliament be allow'd to examine Now into their Conduct, their By-Laws, their Oppressions, their arbitrary Proceedings, and their Charter, if lyable to Exceptions, as there is some Reason to believe they all are?

Nor is the examining into these Things so incongruous to the Bill depending as they would insinuate: I alledge, and undertake to make it appear, that the Bill they seek cannot be rational, if the other Conduct of the Company is fully examin'd into; and therefore it is not at all unreasonable to demand, that both be enter'd into together; 'tis a great Mistake to say, that the Conduct of the Company has no Relation to this Bill. On the contrary, if the Company have misbehav'd,

hav'd, if they have oppref'd and injur'd the Fair-Traders, if their By-Laws are unjust, and they are a real Monopoly, and above all, if they seek to be able to act as a Monopoly by Virtue of this Bill, then 'tis absolutely necessary to examine their Conduct before this Bill should pass. *As for Example:*

If this Bill in its Nature tends to making the Company a Monopoly; if it is evident, that in soliciting *this Bill*, they aim at a Power to monopolize; if it appears, that *this Bill*, if pass'd, will put that Power into their Hands: Then, with humble Submission to the House, it is absolutely necessary to examine into the Abuse of the Power they have, and the Reason of the Power they seek, and of their seeking it, and all before this Bill be suffer'd to pass.

And what can it be, but this plain Dependance of these Things, one upon another, that makes these Men so backward to have their Conduct examin'd? But that they are sensible, that if the House should ransack their Behaviour and

and the Use they have made of the Powers and Privileges which they have been entrusted with, they would see very good Reason to consider well of it before they entrusted them any farther.

Nor is this an unjust or an unfair Reflection, because we that are oppress'd by the Company, and have Reason, feelingly, to mention the Abuse of the Powers they have been entrusted with, have much more Reason than other Men to conclude what Use they would make of it, if farther Powers were committed to them as a Company.

And here, because I am necessarily to enter with Plainness and Freedom upon the Detecting a general Scheme of Fraud and Injustice, which evidently seems to run thro' the whole Course of this Matter, and that, as above much less Honesty than Art shews itself in the earnest Solicitations which are and have been made for this Bill, I must be allow'd to distinguish between the Gentlemen concern'd in their personal

sonal and private Capacities, and in their Capacities as a Company.

In their former Capacities, I have nothing in the least to say; here is no personal Satyr intended, nor do I direct any Reflection, in this Affair, to this or that particular Man. There are, without Doubt, many worthy and honourable Persons in the *Turky Company*.

But their Conduct, as a Company, is another Thing; and no Man's private Reputation is concern'd in it; and yet I must acknowledge myself to be of the same Mind which King *Charles II*. gave as his Opinion to a certain Lord Mayor of *London*, (*viz.*) That it was not possible for a Man to act in a Society with the same Honesty and Justice as in their separate and private Capacities; but that all Societies and Companies were Tyrants and Oppressors by the Nature of the Thing.

Having made these Postulata with the Gentlemen-Members of the Company as private Persons, I shall, with the

the more Freedom, speak to their Behaviour as a Company.

I have mention'd how strange it is that these Gentlemen should be so very Earnest for this Bill, and for its passing without enquiring into their Conduct. I shall now unravel this Mystery, and lay it open to the World; and when I have done so, the Wonder will cease.

1. The first Reason is, because enquiring into their past Conduct, will necessarily discover the True, but Conceal'd Design of *the Bill.*
2. It will discover the Reason for endeavouring to obtain it.
3. It will discover the Consequences of it, if obtain'd.

That the Discovery of any, or of all these Things, would most effectually overthrow the Bill, seems reasonable for me to conclude, from the Knowledge I have of the certain Application of the House of Commons, to detecting

ing all clandestine Measures, Projects, and Attempts, couch'd under the specious Pretence of Right, Property, Publick Good, and the like, by which the Subjects are frequently impos'd upon, the Publick abus'd, and private Persons injur'd.

It will be impossible the House can see the exact Connection that there is between the former Conduct of that Company and the Attempt couch'd under the Cover of *this Bill*, and not see how artfully they seek to protect their past ill Conduct, by obtaining an Authority for worse; and to support the Oppressions of their former Measures, by enlarging them in those they should now get Power to act by. To bring this Home to the Point in Dispute, that is to say, *the Bill*.

The Pretences of the Bill are specious, (*viz.*)

1. That the Raw Silk which the *Italian* Merchants import from *Leghorn*, is *French*, and the Return for their *French* Cloths sold in *Turky*.
2. That

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2. That the Quantity of the said Silk imported into *England*, is very great.
3. That it is injurious to the *Turky* Trade.

If these Things were really so, every Man should grant the Consequence at the first Word, (viz.) that the *Bill* was necessary, which is what they alledged.

But, as was said in one of the *Italian* Merchants Cases, These Things would go a great Way in the Charge, But for one Misfortune attending them, which is, that they happen not to be **TRUE**,

The *Italian* Merchants deny, that the Raw Silk they now import from *Leghorn* into *England*, is *Turky* Raw Silk, brought from *Marfeilles* to *Leghorn*; or that it is the Return of *French* Cloth sold in *Turky*; but that it is the Returns of *English* Manufactures, Tin, Cloth, &c. sent from *Great Britain* to *Leghorn*, and from thence to *Turky*, which will at any Time be attested by the Oaths of several *Italian* Merchants who carry on that Trade,

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The *Turky* Merchants affirm it, and therefore the Proof lyes upon them ; but they have contented themselves with saying it is so, and expect to be taken on the Faith of their saying so, which indeed I cannot see reasonable.

The chiefest Evidence they bring of it, is, That in the Years 1714 and 1715, a very great Quantity of Raw Silk was bought in *France*, brought to *Leghorn*, and shipp'd to *England*. Now, tho' I should grant this, that in those two Years a great deal of *French* Raw Silk was brought from *Marseilles*, yet that will neither prove that it has been so in other Years, or that it can ever happen so again : Nor if it were to happen again, can they argue from it any Advantage to the *French* Trade, or Disadvantage to the *English*, but just the contrary, as will appear in the following Heads :

1. From the Reason and Occasion of the *French* Merchants having that great Quantity of Raw Silk upon their Hands at that Time (*viz.*) That they had a Prospect of an open Trade with *England* for their Wrought

Wrought Silks, the *Treaty of Commerce* being then on Foot here; which failing, and the Alteration of their Coin happening at the same Time, they were oblig'd to sell off the Silk Raw at a very great Loss; so that above Thirty considerable Merchants in *France* were ruin'd by it, and became Bankrupt, having lost above one Quarter of the Value. If this be the Way that the *Italian* Merchants shall always encourage the *French* Trade, the *French* will have little to boast of, and the *Levant* Company little to complain of.

2. It is well known that the *French* did not receive that great Quantity of Silk, which was then upon their Hands, in Return for Cloth, or any Manufactures; all the Cloth that cou'd have been in *France* cou'd not have purchas'd it; but they sent away ready Money, and bought up such a Quantity, upon the Prospect of Advantage by the *Treaty of Commerce* in *England*, as above; the Disappointment of which was

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the Ruin of so many Merchants
there. When the Raw Silk in France
was thus cheap, and bought by
us so much to their Loss, it was
greatly wanted in *England*; and
the Price was held up here to
30 s. and 32 s. per lb. and there
was not Silk enough to be had in
England to employ our Weavers,
or to carry on our own Silk Ma-
nufacture; so that at this Time,
which these Men dwell so much
upon, the Importation of *French*
Turky Silk, was infinitely the Ad-
vantage of our Trade, and in Pro-
portion ruinous to *France*.

This sufficiently answers the great
Importation in the Years 1714, 1715,
which these Men insist so much;
and proves that it was a Circumstance
of Trade which can never happen a-
gain; and if ever it shou'd, wou'd,
every Bale of it, be an incredible Ad-
vantage to *England*, and a Disadvan-
tage to *France*.

That

That it cannot be thus now, is plain, and the *Italian* Merchants have made it appear so, by the Calculation of the Price of Silk at *Leghorn*, and at *London*; which generally is, and for the last three Years has been, from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. per lb. cheaper in *London* than at *Leghorn*; which is a sure Rule to judge by, why this Importation cannot be considerable; for that Merchants never extend or continue a Trade that they cannot carry on but to Loss. Nor, indeed, can there ever be any considerable Importation of Raw Silk from *Leghorn*, but when the *Turky* Company, by their oppressive Limitations, and other monopolizing Arts, restrain or with-hold the Importation of a Quantity sufficient for the Market, on purpose to advance the Price for their private Gain. And this Engrossing is so easy to them, such a Grievance to Trade, and so injurious to our Manufactures in *England*, that even the Possibility of their doing so is an unanswerable Reason against their Bill, and proves, that it not only is not NECESSARY, as they pretend, but that it is absolutely necessary their

Power of imposing upon the Market, as above, should be restrain'd.

The *second Head*, is the Quantity which they pretend is Imported, to which the *Turky* Merchants have annex'd no Evidence, expecting to be taken upon their Words. This Quantity they alledge to be about 100 Bales a Year ; but this the *Italian* Merchants deny, and appeal to the Custom-house Books for their Proof : Also they have prov'd, at the House of Commons, that in the current Year, all the Raw Silk imported at *Leghorn* from *France*, amounts to no more than 36 Bales, and in some Years not so much.

The last is, that this is injurious to the *Turky* Trade ; and this they explain two Ways :

1. That it is the Return of the *French* Cloths sold in *Turky*, and consequently assists the *French* in their Sale of Cloth in *Turky*.
2. That it ruins the Market for the *Turky* Raw Silk here at *London*, by sinking the Price of it so, as to

to make the Merchant lose by his Goods, or keep them on his Hands unsold.

Now, neither of these being true, as above, how will it appear that this Trade is injurious to the *Turkey* Trade from and to *England* ?

The Appearance of these Things being thus, and all these Pretences for the Bill being thus repeal'd and expos'd, it leads me to the original Design of the *Turkey* Merchant's pushing this Affair so warmly, and to enquire what must be the true Reasons for their desiring the Bill to stop the Importation of so small a Quantity of Raw Silk, as, *communibus annis*, is brought into *England* from *Leghorn*.

And this Question necessarily carries me back to view the State of the *Turky* Trade, which I shall study to do as clearly and with as much Brevity as I have done the *French*.

The Trade to *Turky* is carry'd on in a Company ; their Charter, their Privileges, their Manner of carrying on their

their Trade is known. The Number of Persons concern'd in their Trade, or Free of their Company, is great ; they tell us, they are above Two Hundred ; and others may, and indeed all, even the *Italian* Merchants themselves, may be Free of this Company, paying the usual Fine at their Admission, and taking the Freedom of the City also.

But, I suppose, it will not be contended, that the Gross of the Trade to *Turky* is carry'd on by a very few Men, and even of those few a yet fewer Number have the governing Influence of the Trade, and can go far, very far, to limit the rest by their Interest, to Ship or not to Ship, Trade or not to Trade, as their Quantities of Goods, Abroad or at Home, want a Market, or want a Price.

And as this is an Article which renders the Company a most effectual Monopoly, when they make Use of it ; so it is evident, that it is but a little while since they did effectually make Use of it, to the great Injury of the Trade ; and this Power, together with an

an Oath every Merchant must take, if he will come in to be free of this Company, and which subjects him to be subject to such monopolizing Arts as those, is the Reason why the *Italian* Merchants have always declin'd the Company, and carry'd on their Trade to *Turky* by the Way of *Leghorn*.

In Favour of this Trade, which, as it is a fair and a just Branch of Commerce, and was found to be very considerable; but above all, as it was found to be a just Check upon the *Turky* Company, and calculated to prevent the Encroachment they were always apt to have into for their private Ends, to the Injury of the *English* Trade and Art of Navigation, and particularly calculated for the Encouragement of Trade, and the Encrease of our Shipping, thought fit, by a Clause on purpose, to make Provision for the Trade of the said *Italian* Merchants, and that they shou'd be allow'd to import the *Asianick* Goods by Way of *Leghorn*.

Also by Law of the said said by
the said Merchant
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And here, I must say, lies the whole Stress of the Bill now depending : It is this Trade to *Turky*, by the Way of *Leghorn*, that the *Turky* Merchants push at. The bringing some *French* Raw Silk by Accident, and on an extraordinary Occasion, when it may be very cheap in *France*, and very dear in *England*; this is made the specious Pretence, but is nothing in the Case; it is the *Italian* Merchant's Trading to *Turky*, *Via Leghorn*, that is the Grievance. This is that they shoot at, tho' they set up the other as a Blind.

To clear themselves of this, and if they would have the House believe them to be as good Patriots as they pretend, why do they not declare openly, that they desire nothing but to prevent the bringing in *Turky* Raw Silk bought of the *French*, that the *French* may not be encourag'd to carry on the *Turky* Trade to their Disadvantage, and to send greater Quantities of *French* Cloth to *Turky*, and the like?

Had this been the real and only Thing they had sought, what Need had they to strike at the Root of the *Italian*

Italian Trade, which is so much more considerable and advantageous than their own? Why Petition for the Repeal of a Clause, which admits them to bring Home the Returns of their Trade to *Turky*? Why had they not only pray'd, that an ACT might pass to prohibit Raw Silk from *France* being imported by Way of *Leghorn*?

Or, on the other Hand, if they were not ashame'd at thus publickly aiming to monopolize both the Cloth Trade in *Turky*, and the Silk Trade in *England*; I say, if they were not ashame'd of such an open Attempt to engross an exclusive Trade, and that they could think a House of Commons, the Guardians of Liberty, could be capable of being brought into such an Invasion of the Liberties of Trade, why did they not petition fairly, That the *Italian* Merchants might not carry *English* Cloths, and Tin into *Turky*, *Via Leghorn*; or, in a Word, that, if they did, they should not be allow'd to bring back the Returns of it into *England*.

This had been, indeed, to have acted with less Cunning, but with more Honesty,

nesty, than to aim and strike fairly at this Prohibition, under Pretence of prohibiting bringing in *French Turkey Silk*; a Thing, which, as it is prov'd, is seldom done, so it is plain it can never be done, but to our Advantage, and the Loss of the *French Merchants*; *unless it be*, as above, *when the Turkey Merchants have put the Dice upon the Market, and rais'd the Price to an unreasonable and injurious Height*; and then the Refuge of a *French Market*, or of any other Market, would be but a Justice to the Manufacturers, and a just Check upon the Engrossers.

It seems necessary, in the next Place, to give a short State of this *By-Trade*, as they would call it, from *Italy* to *Turky*, or from *England* to *Turky*, by Way of *Italy*.

The *Turky Merchants* take much Pains to represent this Article as ver-ry small and inconsiderable; but why then do they not propose to the Par-liament, that in the Bill they solicit for, a Clause be reserv'd, for leaving this little, small, inconsiderable Trade en-tirely free, and its Returns free to be brought

brought Home? If it be small, the Damage to them must likewise be small: Why is it so hotly oppos'd and attack'd, if it were really so small and inconsiderable, as they represent it: I can answer for the *Italian* Merchants, that they would not have struggled with them for the preserving it; and even the Opposition made to them by the *Italian* Merchants, is an Evidence to all the World, that it is very far from being a small and inconsiderable Trade.

By this very Thing the whole Quarrel may be decided: If the *Turky* Merchants aim only at, and desire only the preventing the bringing *French* *Turky* *Silk* hither, and are willing to leave the *Italian* Trade to *Turky*, and back to *England*, by the Way of *Leghorn*, open, as it always was, let them say so, ask for that, and no more, and we shall then see who will oppose them; but, while they thus push at one Thing under Pretence of another, they most plainly discover what they endeavour to conceal.

It is meet, therefore, to put this Affair in a clear Light. The *Italian Mer-*

chants Trade to *Turky* by Way of *Leghorn*, is far from being small or inconsiderable; they export and sell in *Turky* from 40 to 50 Thousand Pounds a Year in *English* Goods, and they bring back the Returns of it to *Leghorn*.

Great Part of those Returns being sold in *Italy*, the Produce of which must be clear Gain to the publick Stock of *Great Britain*, it would be very hard, if they should be deny'd the Privilege of bringing Home the rest to sell in their own Country, as Markets may present.

Except in the Cases already mention'd, they bring no Silk from *Marſſilles*; and nothing but the Exorbitances of the *Turky* Company imposing upon the Markets, as before, can make it practicable. If the House thinks fit, even to prevent it under those Exorbitances, they submit it wholly to the Wisdom of Parliament; but they humbly hope they have a Right of Property, in common with the rest of his Majesty's faithful Subjects, to bring back, and vend in open Market, the Returns of the *English* Woollen Cloths, and

and other Products of their own Country, which they export, and without which they cannot carry on their Trade.

While the Company oppose so just a Request, how can they take it ill, that we say they are a dangerous Monopoly? and how can they clear themselves of the Charge, while they seek to be the only Exporters of Cloth to the whole *Turkish* Empire, and the only Importers of Raw Silk to the King's Dominions? It is not plain, that in this Case they would consult their own Advantages rather than the Demands or Occasions of the Manufacturers?

This is the Article the Company visibly press for; and it cannot be deny'd but it is of great Consequence to them, that is to say, to them personally, and as a Company; but the more it is so, of the more fatal Consequence would it be to the Trade in general, seeing they would, as above, put their own Price upon their Woollen Cloth Abroad, and their own Price upon their Silk at Home: Nor would it weigh with them, that by this Conduct they would lessen the

the Consumption of *English* Cloth in *Turky*; and, to hold it up to a Price, for their private Gain, keep it always scarce at Market, forbidding their Members in *England* to ship but in general Ships, sometimes once a Year, sometimes once in two Years, or more, as they think fit; without regarding, that by this Means there would be many Thousands of Cloths less exported than the Markets would otherwise carry off, to the irreparable Damage and Discouragement of Woollen Manufactures, and the Ruin of the Clothiers, who, when they had made large Quantities of Cloth for the *Turky* Trade, must be oblig'd to keep them on Hand, or, perhaps, sell them under Price to two or three rich money'd Men, who make Use of the Necessities of the poor Clothiers for that very Advantage; all which still proclaims them a Set of Monopolizers, in the worst Sense of the Word.

And this very Practice throws another Charge back upon them, which they never can get off from, and which they now endeavour to put upon the *Italian* Merchants, *viz.* That whereas

they

they alledge, that the *Italian* Merchants are the Supporters of the *French* Trade to *Turky*, (the contrary of which is manifest,) the *Turky* Company, by not duly supplying the Markets, by laying Mulcts and Restraints on the *English* Cloth which comes there by the Way of *Leghorn*, by swearing their Factors and Servants not to sell any of their Goods, but for present Payment ; whereas the *French* give Credit, where there is any Certainty or Security of being paid : By these, I say, and many such like Methods, they are themselves the Encouragers, and, indeed, the Supporters of the *French* Trade to *Turky*, who, on the contrary, were the Markets constantly and fully supply'd, and proper Measures for Trade pursu'd, as would be, if the Trade were open'd, as it might be, would not be able to vend one quarter Part of the Cloth which they now sell there.

So that in a Word, it is the *Turky* Company, who encourage the *French* ; and many Ways this may be made out : As for Example, by laying a Mulct of five Dollars *per Cloth* on all *English* Cloth, which comes thither from

from Leghorn, when the *French* Cloth comes in Free, forbidding *English* Cloth from Leghorn to come in *English* Ships; but permitting *English* Ships to bring *French* and *Dutch* Cloth Free, as above. They tell us, if we stop the *French* Silk from coming hither, we destroy them at once. How can they impose this upon Mankind, when 'tis known, that all the Cloth the *French* Merchant can send to *Turky*, will not supply the Demand they have for Silk in *France*? But they buy a great deal with ready Money, as was the Case those two Years 1714 and 1715, when they lost so much Money by it, as almost ruin'd them all. And what must our poor Manufacturers have done in *England* in those two Years, had they not been supply'd by the *Italian* Merchant's buying that Silk cheap? Is it not evident their Goods must have cost them here 40 l. per Cent, more than the *French* and *Italians* cou'd have imported them at; the Consequence of which must have been, that our *English* Manufacturers must have been starv'd, and *French* Wrought Silks, instead of *Turky* Raw Silks, wou'd have been run in upon us from *France*.

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It is deny'd, and has already been explain'd, that *Turky* Raw Silk ever did or ever can come from *France* hither, by Way of *Leghorn*, in the ordinary Course of Trade : 'Tis plain, it can never come but when their Markets in *France* are so full, and so low, as that they must sell it to great Loss; or when our Markets, starv'd by the Cunning of the Company, are so extravagantly dear, that to reduce the Price will be our Gain; so that, in short, to bring the *Turky* Silk in either of those two Junctures, will be always to our Gain, or to the Loss of the *French*. And in which of these two lies the Advantage to *France*? I would fain have these Gentlemen answer to that Question.

But let us examine, next, what Disadvantage the *Turky* Company can pretend to suffer from the *Italian* Trade? Can any Merchants complain of the Competitors, who cannot trade under them, but at a Disadvantage of 10 or 12 per Cent. and, if they please, 20 or 30 per Cent. unless Means can be found to evade the Force of their Impositions;

it cannot be, the Advantage must lie somewhere else, and 'tis manifest it does so, *viz.* in the having Power, by an exclusive Trade, to impose other Rates and Prices upon the Markets A-broad and at Home, than they have ever yet been able to do: This it is they aim at, and this they find they can come at no other Way, but by putting a Stop to the Merchants sending Cloth to *Turky*, by Way of *Leghorn*, and bringing back the Silk to *London*; and this they cannot expect, but by persuading the World to believe, than which *nothing can be more false*, that this Silk comes from *France*.

Again, to prove the Inconsistence of this Pretence, I would desire those Merchants to calculate the Price which this Silk costs the *French* Merchants in *Turky*, whether it be bought for Cloth or for Money; let them add to it the Charges of carrying first to *Marseilles*, then bringing it from *Marseilles* to *Leghorn*, then shipping it again for *England*, Commission in all those Places, and Charges of sundry Sorts, also Insurance, and the like; and then let them take the Price in *France* and at *London*,

London, at the same Time, and tell us if the *French* gain, or lose, by the Trade: If the *first*, let them prevent it, by such legal Methods as they shall think fit: If the *last*, which I affirm is true, what can be the Meaning of so warmly engaging against a Trade which the *French* lose Money by.

I observe, in several of the Cases given out by the *Turky Company*, they would be thought very popular, and claim it of the World, that they are the great Encouragers of the Woollen Manufacture, and that they not only export great Quantities, but that they take all proper Measures to encourage the Consumption of it in the Country whither they carry it.

But, were this true, how comes it, that there are so many By-Laws for the Discouraging any one to bring it thither but themselves; such as laying a Mulct, or Duty, of 25 Dollars *per* Bale, upon all the *English* Cloth that shall come by Way of *Leghorn*, not allowing it to be brought in *English* Ships, when, at the same Time, *as before*, the *Dutch* and *French* Cloth, *as I*

have observ'd already, may come in English Bottoms; also forbidding their Factors there to sell any English Cloth, but for the Company, and the like.

Let any indifferent Person judge, whether this is encouraging, or whether it is not rather a visible Combination to discourage and destroy the Trade of our English Cloth in Turkey.

With what Assurance can these Men bring a Rabble of Packers and Cloth-Dressers, Clothiers, and Dyers, and other Mechanicks, up to the Door of the House to solicit in their Cause, as if the whole Manufacture was concern'd? which is making the poor ignorant Clothworkers and Manufacturers so many Solicitors against themselves, and bringing them to be Parties to their own Destruction, as Manufacturers.

So also they bring the Pewterers and Dealers in Tin; insinuating, that they are great Benefactors to the Tin-Mines; supposing, perhaps, that this may have some Influence on such Members as represent the Stannary Towns, and who are suppos'd to have Estates in the Mines of Tin

Tin, in the Counties of *Devon* and *Cornwal*: But are they so ignorant as to imagine, that the *Cornish* Gentlemen do not know that the *Italian* Merchants are much greater Exporters of Tin than the *Turky* Merchants, even to above double the Quantity, and that as well to *Turky* as *Italy*? Which Things if duly known, and if the *Italian* Merchants were as much enclin'd to make themselves popular, and needed it as these Men do, would presently bring the Manufacturers, Dyers, Dealers in Tin, and the like, to appear on their Side, rather than on the other.

But I leave all these little Things, as Artifices too mean to be taken Notice of, and fit only to assist a bad Cause. I come next to enter into the Merit of this Question, with regard to the Navigation. It must be of some Concern to let the World see how many Ways this Company, who value themselves so highly, are an Obstruction and Discouragement to our Navigation, and to the employing both Shipping and Seamen, even in this very Trade, in which they would pretend to recommend themselves.

They

They were indeed enquir'd of at the Bar of the House, how many Ships they employ'd to *Turky* in a Year, and tho' I hear they answer'd falsely, and said, Ten; which is more than they employ, and in some Years send none at all; yet, at best, what Number of Ships is this to boast of, or to give them any Claim to be Encouragers of Navigation?

On the other Hand, the *Italian* Merchants alledge, That they hinder, by their Limitations upon the Trade, ten times more Ships being employ'd than all the Trade they carry on employs. Tho' they have all the Grand Seignior's Dominions for their Trade, the others only *Italy*, they employ 6 or 7 Ships a Year, the *Italian* Trade near 150, many of which lie mouldring in Port, while the *French* Vessels (Thanks to the Company) run away with all the Freights to *Turky*.

Which Way shall these Men be discours'd with? Let impartial Men but hear their Argument: How incoherent? How inconsistent with it self? If they talk of our Importation

tion to *England*, 'tis exceeding great. On the other Hand, if they talk of our Exportation from *England*, 'tis exceeding small, tho' we vend and send 40 or 50000 l. a Year in *English Goods* to *Turky*, by Way of *Leghorn*.

If we speak of our Trade to *Turky*, they tell us, one Ship a Year will bring all our Returns, and there is not above 500 Cloths a Year brought into *Turky*; and yet, at the same Time, speak of our Returns as a Thing fatal to their Trade. To avoid the Absurdity of these Things, they insist and affirm, That the Silk, we import, is from *France*; offering nothing to prove it, but their affirming positively, that it is so; the Credit of which the *Italian Merchants* desire to be excus'd as to their giving any Weight to, and as positively deny it.

But there is a Way how the *Turky* Merchants may obtain all that they ask'd, and which, if it may be obtain'd, no Cloth will be carry'd to *Turky*, *Via Leghorn*, any more; and no Raw Silk be brought from *France*, *Via Leghorn*, any more; no Clamour against

against the *Turky* Company's being a Monopoly, will be made any more; no Interruption to our Navigation will be made by the Company more; but the Trade will flourish, the Company will be enrich'd, and the Nation also: And this is but by *laying open the Trade* to all Mankind, to trade freely and unconfin'd; to send out Ships when they will, and by what Ways they will; and every body being left to push their own Trade, there is no Doubt but the Grand Seignior's Dominions, and the Kingdoms and Countries of *Persia*, *Georgia*, *Armenia*, and the *Caspian* Sea, might, if Encouragement was given them, consume much more *English* Cloth than is now sold among them.

This is the Way effectually to increase the Trade, and to encourage both the *English* Manufacture and Navigation; and, in this Case, a few Years wou'd bring the *Turky* Trade not to employ seven Ships a Year, but sevnty, and perhaps, sevenscore Ships.

For then wou'd all the Trade be encourag'd together, and those Ships that

that had a Hundred, and perhaps two Hundred Bales of Cloth on Board, wou'd run away, take in Freight for other Places, as for *Genoa*, *Leghorn*, *Naples*, *Messina*, and so to *Smyrna*, or *Constantinople*; and thus, instead of few Ships, there wou'd be many Sail in a Year employ'd.

And then the Trade wou'd appear, as it indeed is, very considerable; whereas now 'tis contracted, 'tis limited; and indeed by those Limitations 'tis almost quite lost.

The *Russian* Company is an Instance of this, who while they were under the like Limitations as the *Turky* Company, sent usually 6 or 7 Ships a Year to *Archangel*, whereas they now employ above 120 Sail of large Ships a Year, one Year with another; and they export infinitely more Woollen Manufactures to that Country than ever they did before; and thus pushing the Trade on with all the Art, and with the utmost Diligence, they have brought infinite Numbers more of People to use the *British* Manufacture, than ever used it before.

The like is before us, and the like Advantages offer themselves ; for by this one Act, (viz.) of laying the Trade open, Industry wou'd have her Hands at Liberty, to struggle and to push the Trade into Countries, and among Inhabitants that were never heard of before. Methods wou'd then be used by the vigilant Merchant, to send his Goods, and to sell his Goods, without exacting ready Money where Payment was sure ; leaving the Factor a discretionary Power to act as for himself.

As the Trade wou'd thus be better'd, so the Encouragement to Shipping, the Encrease of Seamen, and above all, the Consumption of our Manufactures wou'd be enlarrg'd, and then the Mock-Complaint of the Importation of Raw Silk from *Marseilles*, wou'd be at an End ; neither wou'd there be any Occasion of a Bill to prevent the Importation of *Asiatick* Goods from *Leghorn* ; every Merchant having a Liberty, in the course of his own Business, to bring away the Returns directly.

Like-

Likewise, as a far greater Number of Ships wou'd go to *Turky*, having but Part of their Loading thither from *England*, and having the Liberty to take in Goods for *Leghorn*, *Naples*, and *Messina*, in their Way to *Turky*; so, in their Return, having Part of their Loading for *Italy* or *England*, there being a constant Trade to and from *Turky* to *Italy*, the Freight of which is considerable, they will be enabled to take the rest of their Loading in *Italian* Goods at *Messina*, *Naples*, or *Leghorn*, as Opportunity presents, or as their Employers direct. So that in this Case, the End of the A^t of Navigation, which, as I said before, was to encrease and encourage *English* Seamen and *English* Shipping, especially Ships of Force, wou'd much better be answer'd, than by carrying on a narrow contracted Trade, as now they do, manag'd by about thirty Merchants only; and those Thirty manag'd again by Two or Three, by which the whole Commerce is straighten'd, the Consumption of *English* Cloth hinder'd, and the *Dutch* and *French* encourag'd to carry Cloth to *Turky*, and worm us out of the Trade.

This laying open the Trade may with Ease be so regulated, as that the Ambassadors, Consuls, and other Officers necessary to act there, may be still maintain'd, and all the necessary Expences of the Trade be supply'd, either by the Commerce it self, or by the Publick, for which suitable Provision may be made, as to the Wisdom of the Parliament shall seem meet. And for the compleat and easy Direction whereof, a Scheme of suitable Measures shall be presented to the House, whenever such a Thing shall come upon the Stage; nor is there any Doubt to be made, but that the Italian Merchants will be able to answer all the Objections that can be justly brought against such a Change of the Company's Constitution.

F. I. N. I. S.

